

# Wisbech Rural District Council

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A N N U A L   R E P O R T

O F   T H E

M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H .

District Council Offices  
Alexandra Road,  
Wisbech.

M. Doreen C. Martin,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.



WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The Chairman (Mr. G.F.W. Cannon), the Vice-Chairman (Mr. E.J. Humphrey) and the full Council.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH -

M. Doreen C. Martin, M.B., Ch.B., D.C.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR -

Alan P. Grant, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND ASSISTANT SURVEYOR -

D. O'Connor, M.A.P.H.I.



WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

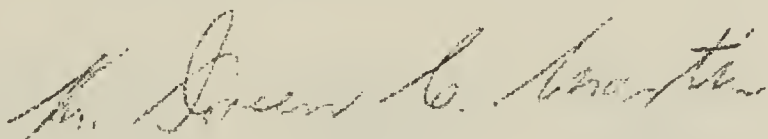
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1962.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I present, for your consideration, the Annual Report of the Public Health and Welfare of the Rural District of Wisbech for the year ending 31st December, 1962.

I am very grateful to Mr. Grant, Senior Public Health Inspector and all the staff of the Department for the help they have given me at all times. I am very conscious too of the support of the Chairman and Members of Council and would like to express my appreciation.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District .....	49,841 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of mid-year population for 1962 .....	12,670
Estimate mid-year population for 1961 .....	12,590
Rateable Value 1st April, 1962 .....	£82,818
Rateable Value 1st April, 1961 .....	£81,445
Product of a Penny Rate .....	£325
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate books .	4,185.



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# VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS - 221

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Birth Rate</u> <u>(adjusted)*</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	107	114			
<u>Legitimate:</u>	101	108	17.4	≠	18.0
<u>Illegitimate:</u>	6	6			

Area Comparability Factor (Births) 1.00

STILL BIRTHS - 1

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Still Birth</u> <u>Rate **</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
<u>TOTAL:</u>	1	-			
<u>Legitimate:</u>	1	-	4.5	≠	18.1
<u>Illegitimate:</u>	-	-			

DEATHS (All Causes) - 122

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Death Rate</u> <u>(adjusted)***</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County.</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
	67	55	10.4	≠	11.9

Area Comparability Factor (deaths) 1.08

DEATHS - Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion - 0

DEATHS - Infants under 1 year of age -

TOTAL: 4

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Wisbech R.D.</u> <u>Infant Mortality</u> <u>Rate ****</u>	<u>Adminis-</u> <u>trative</u> <u>County</u>	<u>England</u> <u>and</u> <u>Wales.</u>
<u>Legitimate</u>	3	1			
<u>Illegitimate</u>	0	0	18.1	≠	20.7

- \* Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1962 population
- \*\* Rate per 1,000 Births (Live and Still).
- \*\*\* Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1962 population
- \*\*\*\* Death of infants under 1 year, per 1,000 live births.

# VITAL STATISTICS (Cont'd).

## CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR - 4

Erythroblastosis Foetalis	- 1	} Both children were born prematurely.
Atelectesis	- 1	
Hydrocephalus	- 1	Pneumonia - 1

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE -

TOTAL - 2		M.	F.
	Legitimate	1	1
	Illegitimate	0	0

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE - 2

## DEATHS FROM CANCER (All ages) - 18

### LIVE BIRTH RATE :

	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
Wisbech R.D.	15.9	15.6	15.3	16.99	16.2	17.4
Isle of Ely	16.13	15.78	15.76	16.84	16.94	✕
England & Wales	16.1	16.4	16.5	17.1	17.4	18.0

### STILL BIRTH RATE :

Wisbech R.D.	14.9	39.2	15.3	4.62	14.5	4.5
Isle of Ely	21.14	19.68	25.9	29.34	17.78	✕
England & Wales	22.4	21.6	20.7	19.7	19.1	18.1

### DEATH RATE :

Wisbech R.D.	7.9	9.8	11.1	9.39	8.7	10.4
Isle of Ely	11.08	9.82	11.53	10.82	10.89	✕
England & Wales	11.5	11.7	11.6	11.5	12.0	11.9

### INFANT MORTALITY RATE :

Wisbech R.D.	10.1	25.5	41.5	37.21	9.8	18.1
Isle of Ely	20.22	17.92	25.19	29.55	14.73	✕
England & Wales	23.0	22.5	22.2	21.7	21.6	20.7

\* Figures for Isle of Ely County Council not yet available.



GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Isle of Ely Executive Council - Bank House, West End, March.

Clerk - A. R. Marsh, Esq.

East Anglian Regional Hospital Board - 117, Chesterton Road,  
Cambridge.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer - Dr. J.B. Ewen.

(a) GENERAL -

- (1) North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.
- (2) Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech.
- (3) Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
- (4) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
- (5) Doddington Hospital, Doddington.

(b) MATERNITY -

Bowthorpe Maternity Home, Wisbech.

(c) INFECTIOUS DISEASES--

Isolation Hospital, Peterborough.  
Hardwick Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.

(d) SANATORIA -

Accommodation is provided through the East Anglian  
Regional Hospital Board.

(e) MENTAL -

Accommodation is provided (through the East Anglian  
Regional Hospital Board) usually in Fulbourne Hospital. This is  
arranged directly by the Local General Practitioners.

(f) VENERAL DISEASE -

- (1) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
- (2) Peterborough Memorial Hospital.
- (3) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

(g) MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SERVICE -

Medical equipment is provided on loan by the St. Johns Ambulance Division and the Red Cross Medical Loan Depot by arrangement with the County Council.

MIDWIFERY, GENERAL SICK AND PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING -

The Nursing Staff is employed by the Isle of Ely County Council either directly or by arrangement with the County Nursing Association under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

In the parishes given, all those undertaking midwifery and general nursing are qualified to administer gas/air analgesia and pethedine, and the necessary number of gas/air machines are available for their use.

ELM, UPWELL AND OUTWELL -

Miss A. Heney,	Q.N.	Midwife; General Nursing;
Halfpenny Lane,	S.R.N.	Public Health Nursing;
ELM.	S.C.M.	School Nurse.
(Wisbech 1806).	H.V.Cert.	

WISBECH ST. MARY AND PARSON DROVE -

Miss B.M. Robinson,	Q.N.	General Nursing and
Nurses House,	S.C.M.	Relief Midwife.
Church Road,		
WISBECH ST. MARY.		

LEVERINGTON, NEWTON AND TYDD ST. GILES -

Miss E.M. Burdett,	Q.N.	Midwifery.
High Road,	S.C.M.	General Nursing.
GOREFIELD.		

## AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

A County Council Service - there are three ambulances garaged at Wisbech Motors Ltd., Norwich Road, Wisbech.

## COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

### Infant Welfare Centres -

(a)	Guyhirn (Village Hall) .....	3rd Thursday.
(b)	Parson Drove (Church Hall) .....	1st Wednesday.
(c)	Leverington (Church Hall) .....	2nd Tuesday.
(d)	Fridaybridge (Church Hall) .....	4th Wednesday.
(e)	Wisbech St. Mary (Women's Institute) .....	2nd Thursday.
(f)	Newton (Women's Institute) .....	1st Thursday.

### School Minor Ailment Clinics -

- (a) County Clinics, Lynn Road, Wisbech.
- (b) Beaupre School, Outwell.

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### Home Help Service -

Organised and operated by the County Council.

### Disinfection and Disinfestation -

Premises - By the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.

Bedding and Clothing - which cannot be dealt with by this department are sent to Peterborough Isolation Hospital.

### Laboratory Services -

- (a) Public Health Laboratory Service,  
Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.  
(Director - Dr. Fry).
- (b) Public Analyst,  
S. Greenburgh, P.H.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.  
25, St. Barnabas Road,  
Cambridge.



## OTHER SERVICES.

### Health Education -

All primiparous women are given the opportunity of attending relaxation and Mother and Baby care classes during their pregnancy. Recognised Women's Meetings e.g. Church groups and Women's Rural Institute Meetings, occasionally ask for a speaker on Health Education, and such requests are readily complied with.

### Personal Cleanliness -

At the end of this year a bath-house was completed at the Borough Public Health Department. This is very satisfactory and has already been used by one resident of the Rural District.

## SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER.

During 1962 there has been considerable publicity regarding the undoubted association between smoking and lung cancer. In April, this Council felt that it would be a helpful example if smoking was banned at Council and standing Committee Meetings. This decision was rescinded in December. It will be noted overleaf that during 1962 there were seven deaths from lung cancer - all of them male.

A table to show the number of deaths from lung cancer in recent years, is appended. These figures do not, of course, include cases diagnosed and successfully treated.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1957	4	1	5
1958	4	0	4
1959	1	1	2
1960	3	0	3
1961	1	1	2

# CAUSES OF DEATH - 1962.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other .....	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease .....	0	0	0
Diphtheria .....	0	0	0
Whooping Cough .....	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections .....	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	0	0	0
Measles .....	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	0	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	7	0	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	0	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	4	5	9
Leukeamia, aleukeamia .....	2	0	2
Diabetes .....	0	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	8	13	21
Coronary disease, angina .....	19	19	38
Hypertension with heart disease .....	0	0	0
Other heart disease .....	3	4	7
Other circulatory disease .....	2	2	4
Influenza .....	2	1	3
Pneumonia .....	4	2	6
Bronchitis .....	7	0	7
Other diseases of the respiratory system .....	1	0	1
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum .....	1	0	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis .....	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate .....	0	0	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	0	0	0
Congenital malformations .....	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	3	6	9
Motor Vehicle accidents .....	2	0	2
All other accidents .....	1	0	1
Suicide .....	0	0	0
Homicide and operations of war .....	0	0	0
Total :	67	55	122



NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1962.

Notifications:

Dysentery .....	0
Typhoid Fever .....	0
Paratyphoid Fever .....	0
Meningococcal Infections .....	0
Scarlet Fever .....	25
Whooping Cough .....	0
Diphtheria .....	0
Erysipelas .....	4
Smallpox .....	0
Measles .....	127
Pneumonia .....	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	
Paralytic .....	0
Non-Paralytic .....	0
Food Poisoning .....	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	0
Tuberculosis (all Forms) .....	0
Malaria .....	0
Infective Jaundice .....	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	0

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

## HOUSING.

I am indebted to the Senior Public Health Inspector for the following reports.

### Number of Dwellings completed during 1962 -

Council Bungalows	-	27	Private	-	30
Council Houses		<u>6</u>			
		<u>33</u>			

### Number of Dwellings under construction at the end of 1962 -

Council Bungalows	-	45	Private	-	25
Council Houses	-	<u>0</u>			
		<u>45</u>			

### UNFIT HOUSES -

The following number of unfit houses were dealt with :

26	Demolition Orders.
7	Closing Orders.
8	Undertakings, not to re-let.

There are approximately 249 sub-standard houses distributed in the parishes as follows -

Elm	-	43
Leverington	-	69
Newton	-	8
Outwell	-	15
Parson Drove	-	12
Tydd St. Giles	-	12
Upwell	-	26
Wisbech St. Mary	-	64

### RENT ACT, 1957 -

During the year an application for the revocation of a Certificate of Disrepair was made by the owners of one property. All repairs had been carried out and the application was granted. One application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received, it was necessary to issue the required Certificate.

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS -

Applications for grants for the improvement of private dwellings have been dealt with jointly by the Public Health and Architect's Departments as in previous years. During the year Discretionary Grants were approved for 11 houses to a total of £3,390. Standard Grants were approved for 15 houses to a total of £1,876.

The figures of properties improved are much the same as the previous year but there are signs that the public are beginning to take more interest in the scheme and the number of enquiries to the department has increased appreciably.

## BUILDING BYELAWS -

The examination of all plans submitted under the Building Byelaws, the preparation of reports to the Planning Committee and subsequent inspection of work in progress, is carried out by the Public Health Department and during the year 256 plans were dealt with.

## CESSPOOL, PRIVY EMPTYING AND COUNCIL'S SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANTS -

During the year a new Thames Trader Cesspool emptier was brought into operation together with the existing Dennis Cesspool emptier the work of which as far as possible is restricted to work upon the Council's sewage disposal plants and Council property. The work done by the two vehicles consisted of the emptying of 1,361 domestic cesspools and privies with a total of 1,432 loads and 287 loads of sludge were removed from the Council's sewage disposal plants on 17 housing estates.

The standard of sewage effluent from most of the plants showed little signs of improvement and the Pollutions Officer of the River Board has drawn attention to this fact in his analysis reports. Investigations are now proceeding with a view to the installation of a new type of activated sludge process disposal plant which because of its simplicity and efficiency should solve the poor effluent problem. It is obvious from the above that the cesspool emptying service is becoming more and more important and during the year a Committee of both Wisbech and Marshland Council Members met with a view to solving the problem of the ultimate disposal of the contents of the cesspool emptiers. It was decided to offer persons who would take the loads of sewage onto their land an incentive of half a crown per load. I regret to say that the response was practically nil and as things stand the position is as bad if not worse than before; because of the increase in jobs being done and extra loads being taken from the sewage plants. It was however decided by the Council that investigations be put in hand by the Architect with a view to solving the problem by the



use of a purification plant of the activated sludge type and this has been put in hand. If these investigations prove fruitful it is hoped that the end of the disposal problem will be in sight.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL -

A fortnightly collection of refuse is carried out over almost the whole of the district, together with a twice weekly collection for about seven months of the year from the Agricultural Camp at Fridaybridge. The service is operated by a crew of two men with one vehicle.

During the year approximately 2,290 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of.

Refuse was disposed of in the first part of the year, at Plash Drove, Wisbech St. Mary but by June all tipping space was taken up and the whole site was covered with soil and levelled and tipping operations commenced at Boyces Bridge on the Wisbech Canal. Progress here has been satisfactory, the John Deere Lanz tractor bulldozer digs soil which is used for covering and it also handles the refuse into the canal. It must be anticipated that full advantage will be taken by local firms for the tipping of trade refuse especially those firms dealing in fruit. A fixed charge is made for trade refuse based on weight.

Increases in the collection area were again made and it is fair to say that the service is now fully extended. Running time from the more distant parts of the district is eating into collection time and it is suggested that the time is now ripe for the Council to give consideration to the purchase of a larger refuse collection vehicle so that long journeys to and from the tip are cut to a minimum. A salvage system is in operation and all types of materials are salvaged and sold through a local firm. The revenue for the year was £113 after deduction of the collectors' bonuses.

#### FOOD -

There was no change in regard to food premises generally, premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream, and those used in connection with the sale of milk.

All food premises in the district were inspected and occupiers were requested to give attention to contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Samples of Ice Cream of the 'softie', type were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. The samples were found satisfactory. Eight new premises were registered for the sale of ice cream.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958 -

The district is now served by the one slaughterhouse owned and operated by Mr. N. Gagen of Gorefield. No difficulty was experienced in the inspection of all animals slaughtered for human consumption.

## CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960 -

Licences for sites for single caravans were issued in respect of four caravans. During the year a suggestion was put forward by the Wisbech Borough Council that a joint site in the rural area in the vicinity of the boundary between the Isle of Ely and Norfolk would be beneficial. A series of meetings were held but no firm decision was reached in the matter.

## RODENT CONTROL -

Under existing arrangements a part time operator deals regularly with Council property including tips and sewage plants. During the early part of the year, a sub-Committee was set up to deal with the upsurge in the rat population, and as a result the Wisbech and District Pigeon and Rabbit Clearance Society agreed to the use of their rodent operator if his services were required by the Council.

Advice and instructions were given to the public by the department necessitated either through complaint or if found during routine inspections of property.

## PETROLEUM ACTS -

Four new petroleum tanks were installed in the district during the year and the necessary inspections carried out prior to the tank installation.

## SWIMMING BATHS -

Samples of the water from the various school swimming baths were taken and the standard was found to be satisfactory.

During the year the following schools provided themselves with swimming pools :

Christchurch.  
Guyhirn.  
Parson Drove.  
Gorefield.



Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

<u>1962 to 1962.</u>	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses.
Number Killed:	125	42	1	75	557	-
Number inspected:	125	42	1	75	557	-
<u>diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned:	-	-	1	-	4	-
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned:	19	8	-	6	72	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci:	15.2	19.0	100	8.0	13.6	-
<u>tuberculosis only -</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned:	1	-	-	-	4	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis:	0.8	-	-	-	0.7	-
<u>cysticercosis -</u>						
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT, 1947 and 1948,  
Part 1 of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Inspect ions (4)	Number of Written Notices (5)	Occ. Prs'ctd. (6)	M/c Line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sects.1,2, 3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities:	1	29	32	-	-	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority:	2	27	29	-	-	2
(iii) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers premises)	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total	-	56	61	-	-	-

2. One premises was dealt with informally; for the provision of  
adequate sanitary accommodation.



